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PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHAH #1181 2500908
ZNY CCCCC ZZH(CCY ADD3576A MSI6080-695)
P 060908Z SEP 08
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1505
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 4271
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2083
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1948
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 2519
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 2864

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 001181

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/06/2018
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ECON](#) [EPET](#) [TX](#)
SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: LOTUS ENERJI OFFICIALS SAY AUDIT
CONFIRMS VAST GAS DEPOSIT IN SOUTH YOLOTEN

REF: ASHGABAT 1139

Classified By: Charge Sylvia Reed Curran for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) Officials of the Turkish energy company Lotus Enerji told Charge September 5 that an audit done by the seismic imaging company WesternGeco confirms large gas deposits in South Yoloten. Although an audit by Gaffney-Kline, which is due to be made public in late September, is necessary in order to proceed with the TAPI pipeline, Lotus Enerji said the Turkmenistan government allowed the company to arrange for a seismic survey by WesternGeco of a small area of South Yoloten. (A Lotus Enerji board member, who lives in Houston, Texas with his family, arranged for the survey through WesternGeco's Houston office.) The survey result showed 5 trillion cubic meters just in that area. Lotus Enerji hopes to partner with M. W. Kellogg company to get the contract for sulfur removal for South Yoloten.

12. (C) COMMENT: Although there has been much speculation about whether South Yoloten could possibly hold the 7 trillion cubic meters of natural gas that the Government of Turkmenistan has been trumpeting, we are hearing from other sources (reftel) that the Gaffney-Kline audit, when its results are made public, will likely support and could exceed the government's figures. If WesternGeco has, indeed, found an estimated 5 trillion cubic meters in just one area, the rumors would be true. END COMMENT.
CURRAN